

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY ARA/ECA:FERONDON:JMA

APPROVED BY P:DNEWSOM

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HA - MSCHNEIDER (INFO)

S/S:SVALERGA

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 161509

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, AR

SUBJECT: UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM'S MEETING WITH DEPUTY
FOREIGN MINISTER ALLARA.

1. SUMMARY. THERE WERE NO NEW DEVELOPMENTS DURING UNDER-
SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH ARGENTINE DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER.
NEWSOM ONCE AGAIN EXPLAINED NEED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT
PRISONERS, TORTURE, DISAPPEARANCES AND INTERNATIONAL
INSPECTION IF UNITED STATES IS TO JUSTIFY POLICY CHANGES,
INCLUDING MILITARY PROGRAMS. NEWSOM WELCOMED INVITATION
TO INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION BUT THERE WAS NO
INDICATION WHETHER ARGENTINE INVITATION WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE
TO COMMISSION. SECOND MEETING LARGELY DEVOTED TO FURTHER
ELABORATION OF EX IM ISSUE. END SUMMARY

2. UNDER SECRETARY FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS NEWSOM MET WITH
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DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER ALLARA FOR APPROXIMATELY 45
MINUTES ON JUNE 23. SECOND MEETING WAS HELD AT OAS AND
WILL BE REPORTED SEPTEL. ALLARA WAS ACCOMPANIED
BY AMBASSADOR AJA ESPIL, NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION DIRECTOR
ESPECHE AND HUMAN RIGHTS WORKING GROUP DIRECTOR ARLIA.
HA DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHNEIDER, ZIMMERMANN AND
RONDON OF ARA/ECA, AND MILLER OF P WERE ALSO PRESENT.

3. AFTER INITIAL EXCHANGE OF REMARKS, NEWSOM NOTED PROBLEM THAT U.S. PROGRAMS, INCLUDING MILITARY ONES, CANNOT GO FORWARD UNLESS WE CAN JUSTIFY CHANGES IN AMERICAN POLICY RESULTANT FROM ARGENTINE HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRESS. NEWSOM TOUCHED ON FOUR AREAS OF CONCERN.

-- INTERNATIONAL INSPECTION. NEWSOM WELCOMED INVITATION TO INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (IAHRC).

-- PRISONER RELEASES. HE REQUESTED INFORMATION ON THE RELEASE OF SOME 3,000 PRISONERS, MENTIONING U.S. PAROLE PROGRAM AND OUR READINESS TO RECEIVE A NUMBER OF PRISONERS SO LONG AS THEY HAVE NO CLEAR TERRORIST BACKGROUND.

-- PROBLEM OF CONTINUING REPORTS OF DISAPPEARANCES AND TORTURE ALTHOUGH WE ARE GRATIFIED THAT SIGNIFICANT STEPS ARE BEING TAKEN TO DISCIPLINE THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR EXCESSES.

-- NEED TO PROVIDE INFORMATION TO THE FAMILIES OF THOSE WHO HAVE DISAPPEARED.

NEWSOM SAID THAT PROGRESS IN THESE AREAS IS IMPORTANT IF WE ARE TO RECOMMEND CHANGES TO CONGRESS IN CURRENT RESTRICTIVE LEGISLATION. HE SAID A BEST BEGINNING WOULD

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BE A SATISFACTORY ACCEPTANCE OF ARGENTINA'S INVITATION TO IAHRC.

4. ALLARA STRESSED THAT IAHRC INVITATION WAS AN ARGENTINE INITIATIVE BUT OTHERWISE OFFERED NOTHING NEW. HE STATED, "WE ALWAYS TALK ABOUT WHAT ARGENTINA IS READY TO DO. I WOULD LIKE TO TALK ABOUT WHAT USG IS READY TO DO. WHAT ACTION IS THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE WILLING TO TAKE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS?" ALLARA MENTIONED EXIMBANK CASES INVOLVING BOEING AND ALLIS CHALMERS, COMMENTING THAT ARGENTINA CAN FINANCE ITS NEEDS BUT THAT EXIMBANK POLICY HAS "PROFOUND POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE."

5. NEWSOM EXPLAINED THAT WE ARE NOT DEALING WITH AN ISSUE THAT IS STRICTLY IN HANDS OF STATE DEPARTMENT OR WHITE HOUSE, REFERRING TO CONGRESSIONAL STRICTURES AND NEED TO BE ATTENTIVE TO CONGRESSIONAL VIEWS OR RISK EVEN MORE RESTRICTIVE LAWS.

NEWSOM MENTIONED THAT EXIM LEGISLATION IS BEFORE CONGRESS NOW AND THAT SENATE HAS PASSED VERSION REQUIRING THAT HUMAN RIGHTS BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN OFFERING FINANCIAL

ARRANGEMENTS. NEWSOM INFORMED ALLARA THAT, AS WE TOLD VIDELA AFTER NEWSOM VISIT, IF GOA ANNOUNCES ITS

INVITATION TO IAHC, AND AFTER APPROPRIATE CONSULTATIONS WITH CONGRESS, WE WILL ACT FAVORABLY ON APPLICATIONS FOR MILITARY TRAINING. WE ASSUME, NEWSOM OBSERVED, THAT VISIT WOULD TAKE PLACE IN THE NEAR FUTURE UNDER MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE CONDITIONS SO THE IAHC MIGHT CARRY OUT ITS MISSION. IF FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS TAKE PLACE, NEWSOM ADDED, WE WOULD RESPOND WITH APPROPRIATE APPROVALS. IF THERE WERE A DETERIORATION, THIS WOULD MAKE OUR WORK MUCH MORE DIFFICULT.

6. DURING SECOND MEETING HELD AT OAS UNDER SECRETARY AGAIN
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STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT BETWEEN ARGENTINA AND IAHC. HE POINTED OUT THAT SINCE THERE HAD BEEN NO DRAMATIC PROGRESS IN RELEASE OF DETAINEES OR IN PROVIDING INFORMATION ON DISAPPEARED PERSONS, THIS SEEMED TO BE ONLY ELEMENT WHICH WOULD JUSTIFY NEW LOOK AT BOTH MILITARY AND ECONOMIC CASES NOW PENDING.

7. ARGENTINE SIDE POINTED OUT CONDITIONAL NATURE OF THEIR INVITATION TO IAHC BUT EXPRESSED HOPE THAT INVITATION WOULD BE ACCEPTED. (FYI: WE HAD EXPECTED WORD TODAY BUT THERE IS AS YET NO FINAL DECISION WE ARE AWARE OF. END FYI)

8. ARGENTINES ALSO PRESSED HARD ON WHY US COULD NOT GO FORWARD WITH EX IM FINANCING. NEWSOM EXPLAINED THAT CURRENT EX IM LEGISLATION CONTAINS REQUIREMENT THAT WE CONSIDER HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS AND THAT ANY CREDIT IN EXCESS OF \$60 MILLION MUST BE SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS FOR FORMAL REVIEW. IT IS JUDGMENT OF US THAT ANY SUCH NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS IN ABSENCE OF DEMONSTRATED PROGRESS ON HUMAN RIGHTS COULD SET BACK EFFORTS AT MORE NORMAL RELATIONS WITH ARGENTINA.

9. FOLLOWING CONVERSATIONS WITH NEWSOM ARGENTINES DECIDED THEY NEEDED NO FURTHER APPOINTMENTS. VANCE

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